

**Indian Farmer**

Volume 10, Issue 07, 2023, Pp. 344-346
 Available online at: www.indianfarmer.net
 ISSN: 2394-1227 (Online)

Popular Article**An overview of Indian Breeds of Goat****Khakare Shailaja* and Kurulekar Asmita**

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Received: 11/07/2023

Published: 22/07/2023

(I) NORTHERN TEMPERATE REGION GOATS**1. Chegu:**

- The Chegu breed is fairly widespread in Himachal Pradesh. A few thousands are also found in Sikkim. Chegu goats are recognised for their multifarious utility as providers of quality meat (chevon).
- Chegu goats are medium sized with small ears and horns which are bent upward, backward and outward. Average buck live weight of buck is 39 kg and doe is 26 kg. Average birth weight is 2.0 kg

2. Gaddi

- The Gaddi breed, also known as the White Himalayan, is distributed throughout Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Bilaspur, Simla, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal.
- They are well built and sturdy animals and have drooping and pointed ears with pointed horns bending upwards and backwards.

3. Changra or Changthangi

- Body and legs are small
- Have strong body and powerful legs and ears are pointed.

(II) NORTH WESTERN ARID & SEMI ARID REGION**1. Barbari**

- In India the breed is distributed at Etawah, Agra, Mathura and Aligarh districts of U.P. and Bharatpur district of Rajasthan
- An adult female goat weighs between 25kgs to 35kgs, whereas an adult male goat ranges between 35kgs to 45kgs.

2. Beetal

- The Beetal is native to the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur in Punjab. It is also known as Amritsari goat.
- Amongst native breeds, the Beetal is one of the heaviest dairy type goat breeds, well known for milk

3. Jamunapari

- The home tract and natural habitat is the Chakarnagar area of the Etawah district in the State of Uttar Pradesh
- Their horns are short and flat and horizontally twisting backward. Their ears are large and drooped downwards. An adult female weighs between 45kgs to 60kg

4. Kutchi or Kathiawar

- The Kutchi or Kathiawari, is an important dual-purpose (meat and milk) goat breed, native to the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- They are medium-sized animals. Average milk yield is around 2 kg/day under stall fed conditions and 0.5 to 1 kg on grazing resources. The lactation length is about 6 to 7 months. Generally there is one kidding annually with a twinning percentage of 11, which increases with supplementary feeding under stall fed conditions.

- The coat is predominantly black, but a few white spotted animals are also found. Ears are medium in size, floppy and drooping with typical white markings. The coat is shaggy and dull in appearance with medium to long coarse hair

5.Gohilwadi

- Goats are multipurpose animals and are reared for milk, meat and fibre production. The traditional keepers of this breed are the Rabari and Bharwar communities (also known as Maldharis).
- These are relatively large animals with a black coat covered with coarse long hair. The nose line is slightly convex. Ears are tubular and drooping; both bucks and does have slightly twisted horns, turned backward.

6.Mehasana

- The Mehsana is a large sized breed. The colour of the coat is black with white spots at the base of the ear. The Milk yield averages one kg/day.
- Ears are always white. Both sexes have twisted horns curved upward and backward. The udder is moderately developed having large and conical teats.

7.Sirohi

- The breed is also known by other names such as Devgarhi, Parbatsari, and Ajmeri. Sirohi goat are dual-purpose animals, which are reared for both milk and meat. Coat colour is brown, white, and admixture of colours in typical patches; hair coarse

(III) Southern peninsular region

1.Berari

- Berari goats, also known as Lakhi and Gaorani. They are found in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and in the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh.
- The breed is primarily raised for meat by local farmers. The coat colour is light to dark tan. Thigh hair, eye brows and nostrils are tan to black in colour. The horns and ears are flat, leafy and drooping.

2.Osmanabadi

- Osmanabadi goats are native to the Latur, Tuljapur and Udgir taluks of Osmanabad district of Maharashtra, from where they derive their name.
- Tall and large size body and legs. Average birth weight 2.4 kg. Kidding is once a year. Average age at first Kidding 19-20 months. It has good quality meat.

3.Sangmaneri

- The semi arid region of Maharashtra comprising of Nasik, Ahmednagar and Pune districts forms the native habitat of the Sangamneri goat breed. The breed derives its name from the Sangamner Tehsil of Ahmednagar District.
- They are medium-sized animals. The coat is completely white with mixtures of black and brown. Ears are long and drooping. Both sexes have horns directed backward and upward.

(IV) EASTERN REGION

1.Black Bengal

- The Black Bengal is found in the eastern region of India, in the states of West Bengal and adjoining areas in Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Mizoram
- Dwarf in body size, legs short, straight back; both sexes are bearded. Average live weight of buck is 15 kg and doe is 12 kg. Most prolific among the Indian breeds.
- Kidding is twice a year. Average litter size is 2.1. Average age at first kidding 9-10 months. Average lactation yield is 53 kg. Lactation length is 90 to 120 days. Its skin is in great demand for high quality shoe-making. The meat is excellent and palatable. Milk yield is low and is barely sufficient to feed the kids.

2.Ganjam

- The Ganjam breed, also known as Dalua, is found in eastern India, primarily in the Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput districts of Odisha. A small number are also found in Sikkim.
- They are tall, leggy animals.
- The coat may be black, white, brown or spotted, but black predominates. The hair is short and lustrous. Ears are medium sized and both bucks and does have long, straight horns, directed upward with a medium-length tail.



Figure No1: Top 10 goat breeds for commercial goat farming